

DAILY VARIETY DAILY

Vol. 121 No. 58 Hollywood (28), California, Monday, November 25, 1968

13 Ten Cents

ALL SHOWBIZ MOURNS KENNEDY

REACTION OF PIX B. O. SPLIT

Biz Here Good, But N.Y. Is Dented By Tragedy

It was virtually business as usual at Los Angeles theaters over the weekend, but not so in New York where death of President Kennedy made a shambles of Broadway box office.

There was thin difference, too, between what was on the coast and Broadway cinemas closed Friday night, with trade very thin Saturday and yesterday; all L.A. film theaters remained open Friday, and virtually all local normal or even better box offices Saturday, yesterday being only slightly off.

Locally theaters with new pic
(Continued on Page 4)

Assassination Cues TV Shows Revamp Coming Programs

A number of future program changes were made by networks in view of the sombre weekend events.

Ed Sullivan's CBS-TV show next Sunday was to have featured the Obraztsova Russian Puppet Theatre, but this taped performance, devoted to comedy and satire, has been postponed.

Comedy will be omitted from the Sullivan show now being prepared.

Garry Moore cancelled taping of the CBS-TV show he would have aired tomorrow, so a rerun of an old Moore show probably will be seen.

"Route 66," also CBS-TV, had scheduled a drama, "I'm Here To Kill A King," about the assassination of a foreign monarch, to precede "The Ed." It will be replaced by another "66" drama.

Tomorrow's CBS-TV Red Skelton show is changing its script in view of the tragedy.

Unprecedented Broadcasting Coverage Costing \$30 Mil

Showbiz Stox Hit By Death Of JFK

STUDIOS, CLUBS, FILM THEATRES CLOSED TODAY

Unprecedented, all-out four-day news "crash coverage" by the three television networks, sans all entertainment programming and commercials, cost \$30 million. The President Kennedy had been murdered. It's estimated, on basis of annual gross of approximately \$2,000,000,000, that four-day tab will exceed \$22,000,000. Figure includes losses on tv network day and night-time programming, with national advertising business that would have accrued to the tv stations throughout the country.

The seven Los Angeles tv stations, also foregoing all forms of commercial programming over the four-day span, will lose approximately \$150,000 in revenue.

The 31 radio stations in the L.A. area, also foregoing commercials over four days, will lose around \$220,000 in revenue.

Nationally, with stations giving up around \$7,000,000.

Total might go higher than \$30,000,000 for tv, making this the
(Continued on Page 2)

Before stock exchanges could close at 2:30 p.m. Friday — scant hour before regular shutdown — the death of President Kennedy reflected a major setback in entertainment stocks 14 shot down with 13 gains.

Biggest skid was by MCA, down 6% to 52½. Paramount fell 5½ to 48¾. RCA 5½ to 55.

Other losses included Amex, down 2½ to 22½; MPTP down 2½ to 28½; United Artists down 1½ to 19½; Eastman Kodak and Tech-

Studios, clubs, film theatres closed today

The assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy has rippled and remains almost unparalleled impact on the entertainment industry. Certainly not since the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in April, 1945, has showbiz generally been so deeply affected. While cut back operations today, the national day of mourning, on all levels and sundry facets.

If the decisions seemed to come slowly, and amid confusion, it became clear, in the entertainment industry, along with the whole world, simply could not believe the dire news. Then, as the hours passed and all attention was galvanized on the shocking events and aftermaths, as
(Continued on Page 3)

Rod Serling, Froug Speed USIA Film On New President

Writer Rod Serling and producer William Froug jetted to Washington last night at the request of the USIA to prepare a one-hour documentary President Lyndon Johnson, for showing abroad. Serling will write and narrate the documentary.

Kenneth Bales, project producer with USIA, called Serling from Washington and asked him and
(Continued on Page 4)

Col Now 'Worrying' About Releasing 'Bomb'

New York, Nov. 24 — Columbia, which had nixed a sneak preview of "Dr. Strangelove, Or How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Bomb" at the RKO 60th Street Friday night, called off showing.

There also was some question expressed at Col as to whether the company would go ahead with
(Continued on Page 2)

ON STAGE!
5TH ALL NEW!
Greatest of the Spectaculars!

Le LIDO de Paris
"Bravo"
Revue!

STARDUST HOTEL LAS VEGAS

1295 DELUXE ROOMS
CALL 274-5801
272-5301

2

VARIETY

News of the Show World

(Trade Mark Registered)

FOUNDED BY SAM SILVERMAN

Published Daily Except Saturday,

Sundays and Holidays.

Special Editions the Last Week

in October

By Daily Variety, Ltd.

125 East 34th Street, New York,

46th Street Branch

Hollywood (78), California

Phone HOLLYWOOD 9-1411

Vol. 121 Nov. 25, 1963 No. 58

Copyright 1963 by Daily Variety, Ltd.

Single Copy, 10 Cents

Annual \$10. Foreign, \$25

Second class postage paid at Los Angeles,

California.

THOMAS M. PRYOR, Editor

**L.A. Legit Limp
At Tragic News**

All local legit houses were shut down Friday, as were all such theaters across the country. With one night off the week, both legits currently play three nights each week with less than expected return. "Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?" opening Tuesday at Biltmore completed initial week with \$30,024. "The Taming of the Shrew" ended third last at Huntington Hartford with \$21,787.

Biltmore's Friday closing caused loss of \$7,300, and Huntington Hartford \$6,478, comprising a sell-out. Both houses were down considerably for both performances yesterday, as well, Hartford dropping off approximately \$500 for the evening show.

Saturday evening of Letta Calvar & Co., tonight at Huntington Hartford has been postponed until tomorrow, and show will now run this Sunday instead of Saturday. Biltmore's usual Saturday night with "Virginia Woolf" due to last Friday's darkening will play an extra show this Sunday. Ralph Wonders, house manager, reported the night will be all tickets for last Friday will be honored at this Sunday performance. A ticket may be turned in for a refund or exchange for any other performance where seats are available.

None of the other smaller legit houses will be affected tonight, since none play Mondays.

**Some Films Halted
Production On Friday**

Leaving in several films closed down Friday afternoon following the assassination of President Kennedy.

Among those halting were Columbia's "Good Neighbor Sam," MGM's "The Long Hot Summer" and "Signpost To Murder" and Warner Bros.' "Robin And The Seven Hoods." Metro's "Mr. Novak" telecast also closed down.

On set of Warners' "My Fair Lady" a period of silence was observed.

Advertising Note

Advertising which had been scheduled for today will be published in tomorrow's DAILY VARIETY.

VARIETY**JUST FOR VARIETY**

By ARMY ARCHERD

Mon., Nov. 25, 1963

BROADCAST COVERAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

most stupendous "special event" in the history of communications.

The nation has the communications industry's complete support as widely nor as fully as it did the assassination with its fast-breaking subsequent events, extending through today, declared a national day of mourning by President Johnson.

All three tv and radio webs, NBC, CBS and ABC, cancelled all entertainment and commercial programs until after today.

Local radio and television stations suspended commercials from death of President Roosevelt until after the services.

Some local stations broadcast music of a sacred or "neutral" nature to break the monotony of repetition. Local Networks also aired this type of music at times.

WBAL Feeds Free

Local stations used feeds provided without cost from network stations to supplement their coverage, undoubtedly never before having been compelled to do so between stations and webs, normally heatedly competitive.

KJH-TV, for example, showed a film about Roosevelt. It got from NBC, and then carried the web. KTTV and KCOP served by the networks during the "crash coverage." KABC-TV ran a KTLA tape of the Peter Lawford's leaving for Washington, KTLA being dropped.

All the networks covered events with unprecedented thoroughness. Not only was there comprehensive coverage of the assassination and its immediate aftermath, early morning, the networks showed the actual murder of Lee Edmund Oswald, accused of the assassination. This undoubtedly is the first time such a killing has been shown on tv. It was due to fact Dallas police had notified everyone exactly when the suspect would be moved from their jail.

Networks today will continue all-out coverage, with emphasis on the funeral.

**Col Now 'Worrying'
About Releasing 'Bomb'**

(Continued from Page 1)

plans to release next month the macabre political satire.

Feeling is that release of pic, which is in semi-comic fashion with the U.S. President and Yanki-Russ, will not be appropriate to be deemed appropriate at this time.

Similar problem exists for Paramount's "Seven Days in May."

Las Vegas Blackout

Las Vegas, Nov. 24. — A 24-hour blackout of all entertainment in Las Vegas went into effect Friday after news of President Kennedy's death. Casinos will shut down for four hours Monday during the funeral — third time in 30 years the casinos will close as a result.

First time in 1962, second time for four hours, following FDR's funeral.

NAB Cancels Conference

Washington, Nov. 24—National Assn. of Broadcasters fall conference, scheduled for tomorrow and Tuesday in Frisco has been canceled because of death of President Kennedy.

Film Eds Postpone Meet

LATER FILM Editors Local 776 has canceled annual membership meeting scheduled for tonight. Session, at which nominations of officers for coming year will be made, will be held later.



Mon., Nov. 25, 1963

VARIETY

3

STUDIOS, CLUBS, FILM THEATRES CLOSED TODAY

(Continued from Page 1)
 the sense of loss deepened and per-
 vaded all, decisions came fast.

All film and tv studios here are
 closed today. Most legit houses and
 theaters will be shrouded tonight
 and film shows will be suspended
 till 8 p.m. Upon the death of FDR
 studios and many theatres and all
 theaters here closed for a day.

MPAA Statement:

The Motion Picture Association
 of America, Inc., announcing
 studios and film company offices
 will be closed, issued this state-
 ment:

"This is a terrible hour. The
 true meaning of man's tear
 the hearts of all Americans with
 anguish. As the nation grieves,
 those in motion pictures mourn the
 loss of a true advocate. No Presi-
 dent displayed the appreciation and
 affection for a motion picture as
 did John F. Kennedy."

"The country — yes, the world
 — is less than it was. A leader is
 gone."

The reaction to the tragedy be-
 gan Friday when movie theaters
 did not light up and it should be
 noted that numerous entertainment
 media sales items which had been
 trading on the Kennedy family
 since his inauguration were im-
 mediately withdrawn by most (but
 very likely national) store chains.

Plewick Bookstore in Hollywood
 and Music City store in Hollywood
 on Friday removed all merchandise
 featuring the late President. Executive
 has been removed from stores. With
 reference to music, this includes
 several dozen varied record albums
 containing humorous anecdotes
 about the President and his family,
 particularly the top-selling Van
 Mearer "First Family" album and
 numerous others by a variety of
 essentially comedy performers.

Similarly, the many paperback
 books, books and picture books
 that have sprung up in bookstores
 throughout the nation likely will
 be pulled from most stores, as they
 immediately were from the Pleck-
 wick racks.

Salesmen for both stores noted
 all materials had been heavily
 stocked as Christmas items and, in
 the past, had been heavy sellers
 throughout the year.

A new niteria, closing Friday
 night, was Davis' Crystal Ball and
 Interlude, with operator also
 pledging to close both clubs tonight
 and estimating a \$5,000 loss on
 both nights. Davis had Madam
 booked for Saturday at Crystal
 and, despite comedian's recent
 announcements of a switch from
 his Kennedy active art, Davis is
 now negotiating a new, later date.

State Bro. postponed Kay Steven-
 son's Friday night show to Saturday
 Wednesday, Coconuts Grove, Roaring
 20's, Troubadour, Aah Grove
 and other smaller niterias closed
 for the night. Dixie's Lounge, Jerry
 Lewis' Restaurant, the Beverly
 Hilton and Statler Hilton Hotels,
 while continuing to serve dinner,
 cancelled entertainment, including
 all music, for Friday night.

Only clubs, of major spots polled,
 remained open, as did local bars.
 Theatre owners, however, were
 uncertain what would happen.
 Some said they would remain
 open, others that they would close.
 Theatre managers, however, were
 pledged to remain open as usual
 for the Baseline West, currently spot-
 lighting the Dinh Washington
 revue.

In some instances, niteria spa-
 indicated performers want off pay
 for the closing nights in respect to
 the late President. Others, however,
 were paid as usual.

Showbiz In Washington Shrouded Today

JOHN F. KENNEDY

JOHN Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States and especial friend of the communication arts, was not only cut down in Dallas on Friday by a sharp-shooting assassin in display of man's violence that has stirred revulsion and griefed mankind in this nation and throughout the world. Yesterday the accused assassin died, himself the victim of a vengeance contrary to the will of God and the law of God that litigated the way for John F. Kennedy. His funeral is set for Monday morning all men of goodwill, each in his own way, join in the Pontifical High Mass of Requiem offered in the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington, D.C., to commend the soul of the late President, according to the Roman Catholic religion that he practiced, to the keeping of the Almighty God for life everlasting in the glory of Heaven.

Since that terrible Friday afternoon of Nov. 22, millions of words have been written and spoken from every corner of the world. One cannot help but wonder that if the same steadfast administration had been expanded during the almost three years he had served as President, how the overwhelming tragedy might have been averted and that today, instead of a nation and a world in mourning, mankind might be a step closer to attaining true dignity of intellect and spiritual communion.

The community of Hollywood and show business in general has a friend, a fall back upon a tribe, but nevertheless apt expression, John F. Kennedy, more than any other President, had a feeling for, and close ties with, people in the performing arts. While Franklin Delano Roosevelt had a lively interest in seeing motion pictures and his wife was a mainstay of the Federal Theatre Project, President and Mrs. Kennedy — possibly because of their own involvement as much as anything else (the President's father was long active in motion pictures) seemed to have closer rapport with show folk.

The interest of the late President and Mrs. Kennedy in establishment of a national cultural center in Washington needs no explanation; however, from the day of his inauguration celebration, which was the most prominent part, President Kennedy did much by identification of himself to signify a high regard for people in the entertainment world. Indeed, he had scheduled for the motion picture business an unusual Presidential recognition. There was to have been a White House luncheon meeting on Dec. 1 for 45 representatives of the industry, an event which would have accorded the profession importance on a par with that reserved heretofore (outside of wartime emergency when entertainment automatically is recognized as a potent morale force) mostly for big industry and finance.

Because of this as well as personal relationships that enabled the late President to enjoy moments of informal relaxation in Southern California, the community of Hollywood has suffered — despite often pronounced political differences — an acutely personal loss in the martyrdom of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Today the show doesn't go on in Hollywood. Studios are closed in tribute to the memory of a noble first citizen and friend.

Lee Oswald Nabbed in Rowley Flagship

Dallas, Nov. 24. — Lee Harvey Oswald, now dead suspected assassin of President Kennedy, was captured in the Texas Theatre, 1,500-seater, built in 1931, and the local flagship of Rowley United Theatres chain, which owned it.

The theatre is four miles from the downtown spot where the sniper felled the late President Kennedy. Ironically, theatre's double feature, "The War is Hell" and "Cry of Battle,"

John A. Callahan, Rowley's city manager, finished one showing of the double bill and closed all three Rowley houses here. Interstate Circuit, Trans-Texas theatres announced to remain open as usual was the Basin Street West, currently spot-lighting the Dinh Washington revue.

In some instances, niteria spa- indicated performers want off pay for the closing nights in respect to the late President. Others, however, were paid as usual.

All Performances Being Suspended

Washington, Nov. 24. — All shows will be suspended to-morrow, day of national mourning, for the late President Kennedy's funeral.

National Repertory Theatre, scheduled to open at the National Theatre tomorrow night with "The Crucible," putting off the first curtain until Tuesday.

The late President had an orchestra seat reserved at the National since his days as a Congressman, which he occupied during his 17 years here. His last visit to the theatre was for the opening last winter of "School For Scandal."

The Arena Stage, a theatre-in-the-round, ended its performance of "The Devil" today and its next play, "Battle Dream," isn't scheduled to open until Wednesday. For several niteria spots, the Monday closing will be substituted as that's the usual off day.

The posh Blue Room of the Shoreham Hotel, where Pat Suzuki is current, observes Monday as its usual off-day. Two niteria in the Kalorama section, where the Kennedys lived before moving to the White House, cancelled Monday performances.

While the local show business community will observe the funeral of its highest ranking enthusiast, its reaction to the President's assassination was one of complete shock. Like the rest of the local citizenry, showfolks have lost their unaffected playboy who in those short years had seemed to give the town some flair.

The National Symphony, its Musicians' strike settled only recently with White House help, cancelled its weekend concert.

The National and Arena closed Friday but reopened Saturday. Both theatres offered Friday and Monday ticket-holders either refunds or options on other performances. The arena was concert by the New York Pro Library of Congress.

On the film front, the Warner and Uptown houses, labelled Friday as the start of "Clips," and "How the West Was Won," The Stanley Warner management gave reserved seat holders refunds.

Showbiz Stox

(Continued from Page 1)
 nicker each lost 1%, closing at 110 and 14%, respectively. Cine-rama was down 1% to 10%, and Disney and Zenith, each down 1%, to 10% and 7%, respectively.

Only Matinee, Daytime and Movieland showed gains, fractional. teas nitespots here. Ruby's only local police record is one 1958 \$2,000 fine for violating Bond's threats reportedly have been received by Ruby's attorney, Mayor Erie Cabell and Federal Judge Sarah T. Hughes.